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For Immediate Release

November 2, 2005

**IDHS ANNOUNCES FEMA EXTENDING DEADLINE
FOR SURVIVORS OF HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA**

Indianapolis – The Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) extended the deadline for applying for disaster aid for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Survivors from Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas now have until January 11, 2006 to apply for assistance.

“Although the deadline for applying for assistance has been extended, we urge any survivors of either hurricane currently in Indiana to register with FEMA as soon as possible,” said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. “These individuals and their families have been through so much we want to ensure they receive the assistance they need to rebuild their lives.”

Survivors of the hurricanes can apply for disaster assistance by calling FEMA at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585 for the speech or hearing-impaired. The telephone lines are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week until further notice. FEMA will maintain the toll-free phone line after the application deadline to assist those registered hurricane survivors. Hurricane survivors may also register online at www.fema.gov.

According to FEMA, to date, the agency has over 2.5 million registrations filed and over \$4 billion dollars approved for both disasters.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Attached is the public service announcement issued by FEMA concerning this deadline extension.

Media Contact:
FEMA Public Affairs
202-646-4600